Bio for Dr. Victor K. Der

Dr. Der is currently Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy with responsibilities for office operations and managing the oversight of Fossil Energy's Research and Development (encompassing coal, oil, and natural gas) program and the U.S. Petroleum Reserves. Prior to that, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Clean Coal within the Fossil Energy Program Office. In that capacity, he was responsible for directing research and development of clean coal research, development and demonstration, and implementation of energy policy initiatives and priorities relating to clean coal utilization and its role in climate change mitigation including carbon capture and sequestration.

Prior to that position, he was Director, Office of Clean Energy Systems for central power systems technologies such as gasification, advanced combustion and hydrogen turbines; distributed generation technologies such as fuel cells, fuel cell/turbine hybrids, and novel heat engines and compressors; emissions controls technologies; advanced research, and high efficiency, zero-emissions fossil energy technologies . He was also responsible for directing the large scale demonstration programs such as the Clean Coal Technology Demonstration program; the Power Plant Improvement Initiative; Clean Coal Power Initiative; and FutureGen - a demonstration program for near-zero emissions coal, including carbon emissions.

Dr. Der has worked at DOE for 35 years in various programs. He entered government service as a reactor intern in the predecessor agencies to DOE, starting with Atomic Energy Commission. He worked as a structural and materials engineer in nuclear reactor plant designs of the Fast Flux Test Facility and the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Demonstration during the Energy Research and Development Administration. Following this period he managed research in the civilian radioactive waste management program on geologic storage of high-level nuclear waste; superconductivity in the Office of Science's (formerly the Office of Energy Research) magnetic fusion energy program; and Fossil Energy's advanced coal and gas based power systems program.

His prior work includes NASA's Apollo 15 moon mission project and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration program on modeling the upper atmospheric density.

His education includes a Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Ph. D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland. He is married, has two daughters and resides in Gaithersburg, Maryland.